

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:

a format conversion mechanism configured to convert the at least one of the first content part and the second content part into corresponding items of information coded according to respective information coding schemes employed in the respective communication devices identified by said terminal management unit.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the communication attributes includes predetermined communication abilities of the plurality of communication devices.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said terminal management unit compresses and expands the at least one of the first content part and the second content part in accordance with communication abilities of the respective communication devices identified by said terminal management unit.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said terminal management unit filters the respective first content part and said second content part in accordance with communication abilities of the respective communication devices identified by said terminal management unit.

Claims 9-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for configuring a virtual terminal that includes a plurality of communication devices accessible to the apparatus, comprising:

a signal interface configured to receive a calling signal from a calling terminal, said calling signal including at least a first content part and a second content part, said second content part containing information of a different media content than said first content part;

an information separating unit configured to separate said first content part from said second content part of said calling signal;

a terminal management unit configured to identify communication attributes of the plurality of communication devices accessible to said terminal management unit and identify which of said plurality of devices are capable of processing information corresponding to at least one of said first content part and said second content part; and

a virtual terminal interface configured to send information corresponding to said first content part to a first ~~terminal~~ communication device identified by said terminal management unit as being capable of processing said information of said first content part, and send information corresponding to said second content part to a second ~~terminal~~ communication device identified by said terminal management unit as being capable of processing information of the second content part, wherein each of the first communication device and the second communication device is one of the plurality of communication devices.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein:

said calling signal is at least one of a multi-media signal, a communication session and a video conference signal.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein:

said communication attributes include at least one of a coding scheme, media content processing capability, audio format processing capability, and video format processing capability.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim 18, further comprising:

a conversion mechanism configured to convert a signal scheme of said first content part into another signal scheme, wherein

said terminal management unit being configured to identify said first ~~terminal~~
communication device as being capable of processing data in said another format.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein:

said first content part including digital data that is representative of an audio signal.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein:

said second content part including digital data that is representative of a video signal.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the virtual terminal interface includes a radio communication interface.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the virtual terminal interface includes a network interface.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein:
said first terminal being at least one of a cell phone, PDA, videophone and personal computer.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein:
said conversion mechanism being configured to convert from a first MPEG format to a second MPEG format.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, further comprising:
a filtering mechanism configured to extract information from said first content part so as to reduce an amount of said information that said virtual terminal interface sends to said first terminal.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein:
said information that corresponds to said first content part being a digital representation of a voice signal, an image, a character and a numeral value.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein:
said information separating unit is at least partially implemented in software executed by a processor.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein:
said terminal management unit is at least partially implemented in software executed by a processor.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein:

said calling terminal initiates a communication session by sending said calling signal to said signal interface.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein:

said first ~~terminal~~ communication device and said second ~~terminal~~ communication device do not initiate a communication session with said calling terminal.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A virtual terminal configuring method, comprising:

- (a) managing terminal management information associated with a plurality of communication devices, said terminal management information including indicia of communication attributes of the plurality of communication devices;
- (b) inputting a calling signal from a calling terminal to an apparatus for configuring a virtual terminal, said calling signal containing a first content part and a second content part;
- (c) identifying communication attributes of the plurality of communication devices, and identifying which of said plurality of communication devices are capable of processing information corresponding to at least one of said first content part and said second content part;
- (d) separating said calling signal into said first content part and said second content part; and
- (e) sending information corresponding to said first content part to a first communication device ~~terminal~~ identified in said identifying step as being capable of processing said information of said first content part, and sending information corresponding to said second content part to a second ~~terminal~~ communication device identified in said identifying step as being capable of processing information of the second content part,

wherein each of the first communication device and the second communication device is one of the plurality of communication devices.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A communication system, comprising:

- a plurality of communication devices; and
- a virtual terminal configuring device to which the plurality of communication devices are communicatively coupled,

said virtual terminal configuring device including,

- a signal interface configured to receive a calling signal from a calling terminal, said calling signal including at least a first content part and a second content part, said second content part containing information of a different media content than said first content part;
- an information separating unit configured to separate said first content part from said second content part of said calling signal;
- a terminal management unit configured to identify communication attributes of the plurality of communication devices accessible to said terminal management unit and identify which of said plurality of devices are capable of processing information corresponding to at least one of said first content part and said second content part; and
- a virtual terminal interface configured to send information corresponding to said first content part to a first ~~terminal~~ communication device identified by said terminal management unit as being capable of processing said information of said first content part, and send information corresponding to said second content part to a second ~~terminal~~ communication device identified by said terminal management unit as being capable of processing information of the second content part, wherein

- a virtual terminal being formed by said virtual terminal configuring device and communication devices identified by said terminal management unit so that said virtual

Application No. 09/745,546
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2004

terminal and said calling terminal are configured to communicate with each other, wherein
each of the first communication device and the second communication device is one of the
plurality of communication devices.